

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Twenty-Seventh Town Council
Regular Study Session
Monday, July 16, 2012**

The Highland Town Council met in its standing regular study session on Monday, July 16, 2012 at 7:07 o'clock p.m. in the regular place, the Council upper meeting chambers of the Highland Municipal Building.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen; Mark A. Herak; Dan Vassar; Brian Novak; and Konnie Kuiper were all present. A quorum was established.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Michael W. Griffin, was present to memorialize the meeting.

Also present: Keith Bruxvoort, Jerry McMahon and George Georgeff of the Board of Waterworks Directors were present.

In addition, Metropolitan Police Chief Pete Hohnicki was present.

Matt Felder, of the View Outdoor and James L. Wieser, Attorney at Law were present also.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. Mr. Wieser and Mr. Felder presented some proposed sites upon which View Outdoor hoped to install outdoor signs. One site, located on Cline Avenue, would be installed on municipal property for which View Outdoor would be willing to pay an annual license fee.

Mr. Wieser and Mr. Felder also identified three proposed sites, involving private property, located along Indianapolis Boulevard. It was further noted that for these sites there would be no licensure paid to the municipality.

Mr. Wieser noted that the current governing ordinance prohibits outdoor signs such as being proposed by his client, View Outdoor. Mr. Wieser also noted that use variances have been granted. It was further noted that any proposal would need first to go before the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals for a use variance, that would then go before the Town Council for its action.

Mr. Felder and Mr. Wieser described the proposed outdoors signs to be dual sided but non-electronic or digital display.

Following the presentation and discussion, Mr. Felder and Mr. Wieser departed.

2. Mr. Bruxvoort as President of the Board of Waterworks Directors, joined by directors McMahon and Georgeff, offered an overview and survey regarding the progress and disposition of a commissioned cost of service and rate study for the water utility. It was noted that the utility had not experienced a general increase to recurring fees since November 1990. It was further reported that the Board was seeking to modify the current rate design and structure to be comprised of a single flat fee to recover fixed costs, a flow based fee, and the hydrant maintenance fee. It was further noted that the proposed rates would include a proposed rate of return for the municipality,

which would be accumulated and then transferred to the municipal general fund to be used as general revenue, in the approximate amount of \$260,000 annually.

The Town Council offered no objections to the overview as described or to the Board of Waterworks Directors to advance its process. Finally, it was estimated that the matter might not come to the Town Council much before September.

Mr. Bruxvoort and Mr. McMahon departed following this discussion.

3. The Town Council, Metropolitan Police Chief and Commander Georgeff discussed the status of the state mandated consolidation of the multiple public safety answering or access points (PSAPs), to no more than 2. Presently, there are 18 in Lake County. It was noted that Lake County has offered an intergovernmental cooperation agreement for all municipalities with a PSAP to adopt, and participate in the consolidation effort. The Town Council has not adopted this.

There was discussion between and among the Town Council, the Metropolitan Police Chief and Commander Georgeff. It was noted that the City of Crown Point intentionally rejected the adoption of the interlocal cooperation agreement as styled and suggested opposing the matter in the courts. It was still further suggested that a meeting to be hosted by the Town of Dyer, was conceived in order for representatives of elected officials to meet to discuss the PSAP consolidation and its progress.

It was noted that the board composed of municipal police chiefs in the area, has been meeting to move the process along under the aegis of the County.

The Metropolitan Police Chief also presented a concept discussed informally among the Griffith and Munster police chiefs, to consolidate the dispatch and create a central booking location for use of the three communities, Griffith, Highland and Munster.

The Town Council received the concept favorably and some members encouraged the Metropolitan Police Chief to move the concept forward.

4. The Town Council reviewed the latest iteration of and performed modest mark-up on proposed ordinance to amend the Parade subchapter to revise the permitting process, extending it to more special events, which required additional police support, and providing for a fee. After a discussion with the Metropolitan Police Chief, it was determined with a minor change, the ordinance should be placed on the agenda for the plenary business meeting of July 23, 2012.

There being no further business to discuss, the regular study session of Monday, July 16, 2012 was adjourned at 8:55 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer